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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development
Third session
Geneva, 14–15 December 2015
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1
Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the expert meeting elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the expert meeting is reproduced in chapter I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.5/7 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3
Devising approaches to stimulating economic diversification and promoting value added production, including through investment, with a view to providing equal economic opportunity for all, particularly women and youth

3. The topic for this session of the multi-year expert meeting was approved at the fifty-seventh executive session of the Trade and Development Board.

4. The objective of this session is to exchange views, experiences and lessons learned regarding successful approaches to promoting structural transformation and stimulating economic diversification and value added production, including through investment and technological development, with a view to providing sustainable and inclusive development and providing equal opportunities for all, in particular women and youth. As this theme is cross-cutting, the session will be organized by UNCTAD at an interdivisional level. Issues that may be addressed in the session include:

(a) Policies needed to help improve economic opportunities for all, particularly women and youth;

(b) An overview of global, regional and national economic situations and likely prospects, and implications for major market opportunities;

(c) Measures used or measures that may potentially be used to promote sustainable structural transformation and diversification in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries;

(d) The role of national policies in promoting and enhancing the benefits of domestic and international investment, including employment generation and skills upgrading, infrastructural development, a shift to higher value added activities, innovation clusters and technological development.

5. This session will serve as a forum that brings together experts to engage interactively with each other and with delegations in attendance. Experts on global, regional and national economy may be identified from appropriate government institutions and from international organizations, academia, research institutions, business and civil society, as appropriate.

6. To facilitate discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note. The note reviews major issues related to sectoral transformation and diversification, capital accumulation and social inclusiveness, which are key drivers of development. These processes do not spontaneously result from market forces alone, but require the action of social and economic actors, including developmental States. The note presents the changing sectoral composition of value added and employment in the past four decades, showing progress and setbacks; reviews recent trends in industrial policies; and discusses some key challenges in the formulation and implementation of policies aimed at sustainable and inclusive development for all, particularly women and youth.

7. In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare case studies on the subject under discussion. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Documentation

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Item 4
Adoption of the report of the meeting

8. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its next session. The expert meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chair, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

Input from experts

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately 5–12 pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting. The papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. They should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting and addressed to Ms. Elissa Braunstein, Palais des Nations, CH-1211, Switzerland; fax: 41 22 917 5857; e-mail: elissa.braunstein@unctad.org.